MARVEL

ONE-SHOT

1

HEINBERG
ADAMS
FERRY
GAYDOS
HA
LEE
SIENKIEWICZ

YOUNG AVENGERS SPECIAL

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

YOUNG AVENGERS SPECIAL #1

MARVEL

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
WWW.MARVEL.COM

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

LUKE, IF YOU'RE THERE, PICK UP. I'M AT THE *BUGLE*--

YOUNG JUSTICE?

SO, WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE YOUNG AVENGERS?

--WITH KAT FARRELL, WHO DOESN'T *CARE* THAT I'M ON THE PHONE--

WITNESSES SAID PATRIOT WAS ON DRUGS--THAT HE *ATTACKED* CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HAD TO BE SUBDUED BY HIS OWN TEAM-MATES.

I'LL CALL YOU BACK.

IS IT TRUE?

HOW SHOULD *I* KNOW?

YOU WERE AT THE *SCENE.*

ACCORDING TO *WHO?*

YOU'RE IN THE *PHOTO,* JESS. BEHIND SPIDER-MAN?

OH, MY GOD...

...I LOOK *HUGE.*

THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO. AND NO ONE'S SEEN OR HEARD FROM THE KIDS SINCE.

DID CAP DISASSEMBLE THEM?

WISH I COULD *TELL* YOU.

WELL, IF *YOU* CAN'T...

...MAYBE *CASSIE LANG* CAN.

ANT-MAN'S *DAUGHTER?* WHO HAPPENS TO LOOK *EXACTLY* LIKE THE GIANT ANT-GIRL WEARING HER DAD'S COSTUME?

LAY OFF CASSIE. SHE'S *FOURTEEN--*

I PROMISE NOT TO GO ANYWHERE *NEAR* HER--

GOOD.

--IF *YOU* PROMISE TO GET ME AN *EXCLUSIVE* WITH THE YOUNG AVENGERS.

YOU'RE *NOT* GOING AFTER THOSE KIDS.

IF YOU *BRING* THEM TO ME...

...I WON'T *HAVE* TO.

"WOULD SHE REALLY *DO* THAT..."

...JUST TELL THE WHOLE WORLD WHO I *AM*?

IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYBODY WILL *BELIEVE* HER, CASSIE.

THE WAY NOBODY BELIEVES MATT MURDOCK IS REALLY *DAREDEVIL*?

LOOK, YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO TALK TO KAT IF YOU DON'T *WANT* TO.

WELL... YOU COULD ALWAYS...

...STOP BEING GIANT-GIRL.

WHAT *CHOICE* DO I HAVE?

STATURE.

STATURE. SORRY.

AND DO *WHAT*?

WHATEVER IT WAS YOU WERE DOING *BEFORE* YOU BECAME STATURE.

SORRY, MS. JONES...

"...BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING BACK TO *THAT*."

MS. LANG?

HIS ASSISTANT SAYS MR. STARK MIGHT NOT EVEN BE COMING *IN* TODAY.

BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEAVE A *MESSAGE*--

NO. THAT'S OKAY...

ARE YOU *SURE?*

I'D HATE TO SEE YOU WASTE ANOTHER WHOLE *DAY*--

I BROUGHT A BOOK.

BUT... DON'T YOU HAVE *SCHOOL?*

YES...

...SHE *DOES*...

...I'LL WAIT.

...WHICH IS WHERE SHE *PROMISED* SHE WAS GOING--

I AM, MOM.

RIGHT AFTER I TALK TO MR. STARK.

CASSIE, IF TONY STARK *WANTED* TO TALK TO YOU, HE WOULD'VE RETURNED YOUR *CALLS* AND *E-MAILS*.

ABOUT *WHAT?*

WELL, HE'S *GOING* TO TALK TO ME. WHETHER HE *WANTS* TO OR NOT.

I WANT TO KNOW HOW MY *FATHER* DIED.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. YOU *KNOW* THAT.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN?*

WAS HE ON A *MISSION?* WAS HE IN HIS *LAB?* WAS HE AT LEAST *WITH* SOMEBODY? OR DID HE DIE ALL *ALONE?*

SWEETIE--

LOOK, I KNOW YOU *HATED* HIM. I KNOW YOU HAVE *BLAKE* NOW, BUT...

...DON'T YOU EVER EVEN *THINK* ABOUT DAD?

YOU ALL RIGHT, PEGGY?

IT'S OKAY, BLAKE. CASSIE AND I WERE JUST--

ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL. RIGHT, CASS?

NOT UNTIL I TALK TO MR. STARK.

ACTUALLY, MS. LANG...

...MR. STARK WANTS ME TO TELL YOU HE'S ON HIS WAY.

TELL MR. STARK HE CAN SEE CASSIE *AFTER* SCHOOL. WE'RE LEAVING.

LET'S GO, CASSIE--

I'M NOT GOING *ANYWHERE* WITH YOU.

YOU'RE NOT MY *FATHER.*

NO, *YOUR* FATHER WAS A CONVICTED *FELON*--

SHUT UP!

MY FATHER *PAID* HIS DEBT TO SOCIETY AND BECAME A *HERO!*

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK *I* DO ALL DAY?

JUST BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE *POWERS--*

IF *YOU'RE* SUCH A HERO, WHY AREN'T YOU OUT CHASING *CRIMINALS* INSTEAD OF FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRLS?

OR IS THAT THE *BEST* YOU CAN DO?

YOU DO *NOT* TALK TO HIM THAT WAY.

DO YOU *HEAR* ME?

SMACK

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT EVER TALKING TO HIM *AGAIN.*

STARK

STARK

'MORNING, CASS.

BLAKE SAID YOU MIGHT NEED A RIDE TO *SCHOOL.*

"THAT *NIGHT* I PACKED MY THINGS...

"...AND DECIDED TO FIND A *NEW* HOME.

"BUT THEN...

"...I DISCOVERED I'D INHERITED MY FATHER'S *POWERS*...

"...AND FOUND A NEW *FAMILY* INSTEAD."

WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE GONE IF YOU *HAD* RUN AWAY?

LOS ANGELES.

ATM

I READ ABOUT A GROUP OF KIDS THERE WHO LEFT HOME WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THEIR *PARENTS* WERE SUPER-VILLAINS.

BUT NOW YOU HAVE THE YOUNG AVENGERS.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.

WE'VE ALREADY *LOST* IRON LAD. AND NOBODY'S HEARD FROM *ELI* SINCE THE MISTER HYDE THING, SO...

THE GROUP WON'T GO ON *WITHOUT* HIM?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE *OTHER* GUYS, BUT...

...*I* WILL.

AND THERE'S *NO* PART OF YOU THAT WANTS TO GO BACK TO HAVING A NORMAL LIFE?

MS. JONES, MY DAD WAS *ANT-MAN. I NEVER* HAD A NORMAL LIFE.

I NEVER *WANTED* ONE.

DID YOU?

"IF YOU *THINK* ABOUT IT...

"...THERE'S NO SUCH *THING* AS NORMAL."

NORMAL DOESN'T EXIST.

EVERY SINGLE PERSON ON THE PLANET IS ENTIRELY *DIFFERENT* FROM EVERY OTHER PERSON ON THE PLANET.

WHICH MEANS YOU CAN BE *AVERAGE.*

YOU CAN EVEN BE *TYPICAL.*

BUT KIDS DON'T END UP *KILLING* THEMSELVES-- OR TAKING GUNS TO SCHOOL--BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE *TYPICAL.*

THEY WANT TO BE *NORMAL.*

MORE THAN *ANYTHING.*

AND UNTIL VERY RECENTLY...

...SO DID I.

"IT WAS ALWAYS *PAINFULLY* OBVIOUS TO ME THAT I WAS *DIFFERENT* FROM OTHER GUYS...

"...IF ONLY BECAUSE I HAD THE POWER TO *CHANGE* MYSELF SO I COULD LOOK JUST LIKE THEM.

"GREG NORRIS WAS CAPTAIN OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM, CLASS PRESIDENT, AND HE SOON BECAME MY BEST FRIEND...

"SO ONE DAY, I TOLD HIM THE *TRUTH* ABOUT ME.

"*PART* OF IT, ANYWAY."

YOU'RE A *SHAPE-SHIFTER?*

YEAH.

SO...

...ARE WE COOL? OR--

ARE YOU KIDDING, TEDDY?

WE'RE *UNSTOPPABLE.*

"AND WE WERE.

"TOGETHER, THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULDN'T DO.

"AS LONG AS I PRETENDED TO BE JOHNNY STORM...

"...OR THE INCREDIBLE HULK...

"...OR TONY STARK."

TONY!

MR. STARK!

GREG, WAIT...

...STARK FOUNDATION IS WORKING WITH THE CITY TO DECLARE AVENGERS MANSION A PUBLIC LANDMARK AND MEMORIAL...

...BECAUSE THE AVENGERS HAVE OFFICIALLY DISBANDED.

OH, MY GOD.

I THINK IT'S TIME WE PAID A VISIT TO AVENGERS MANSION...

...DON'T YOU, "MR. STARK"?

AVENGERS DISASSEMBLE!

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO *WAIT* FOR YOU, MR. STARK?

NO. *WE'LL* LOCK UP.

RIGHT, "UNCLE TONY"?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

I KNOW...

...HOW THE HELL ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET *IN?*

LET *ME.*

YOU'VE GOT *SUPER-STRENGTH?*

I *TOLD* YOU THAT.

NO, YOU DIDN'T.

WHAT *ELSE* HAVEN'T YOU TOLD ME?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

FORGET IT. LET'S DO THIS BEFORE YOUR RENT-A-COP BUDDY GETS SUSPICIOUS.

LOOK AT THAT...

CAPTAIN MARVEL AND RICK JONES.

WHO?

THE KID WHO GOT THE AVENGERS TOGETHER IN THE *FIRST* PLACE. WHEN HE WAS *OUR* AGE.

NO WAY...

...DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH *MONEY* WE CAN GET FOR THESE?

I'M SERIOUS.

YEAH, RIGHT.

YOU ALREADY STEAL PEOPLE'S *FACES*--THEIR *IDENTITIES*--

IT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

MAYBE NOT TO *YOU*.

PUT THAT STUFF DOWN, GREG.

OR *WHAT*? YOU'LL CALL THE *COPS*?

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY'LL *BELIEVE*?

THE CLASS PRESIDENT?

OR THE MUTANT SKRULL?

I'M NOT A SKRULL.

DON'T TELL *ME*. TELL THE *COPS*.

PUT THE STUFF *DOWN*...

...AND I'LL *LET* YOU LEAVE.

HAVE IT *YOUR* WAY.

FREAK.

"I WAS A FREAK.

"AND I'D SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE HIDING, TRYING TO BE THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE.

"BUT I COULDN'T HIDE ANYMORE."

IRON MAN?

ACTUALLY...

...IT'S IRON LAD.

"AND THE IRONY IS...

"...THE THINGS THAT MADE ME DIFFERENT...

"... ARE THE SAME THINGS THAT MADE ME A SUPER HERO."

"WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, BILLY?"

"*I'VE* NEVER REALLY HAD A *PROBLEM* WITH BEING DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE.

"IT'S *OTHER* PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE PROBLEM WITH *ME.*"

EXCUSE ME...

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'LL BE OKAY.

THANKS.

YOU'RE *BLEEDING.*

SORRY. I THOUGHT IT STOPPED.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I KINDA GOT PUNCHED IN THE FACE. REPEATEDLY.

WHY?

BECAUSE I'M... *DIFFERENT.*

A MUTANT?

I WISH.

NO, YOU DON'T. *BELIEVE* ME...

...BEING A MUTANT ONLY MAKES PEOPLE WANT TO PUNCH YOU *MORE.*

OH, MY GOD... YOU'RE...

...THE SCARLET WITCH.

YOU'RE MY FAVORITE AVENGER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT OUT LOUD.

DON'T WORRY...

"I WON'T TELL SHE-HULK IF *YOU* WON'T."

SO, WHEN YOU SEE THIS BULLY AT SCHOOL TOMORROW, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

RUN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE *OTHER* DIRECTION.

NO, YOU'RE GOING TO STAND YOUR GROUND. SHOW HIM YOU'RE NOT *AFRAID.*

BUT I *AM* AFRAID.

IF I HAD *POWERS--*

YOU *DO.*

EVERYONE HAS *SOME* GIFT-- SOMETHING THEY DO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

I DON'T THINK MY KEEN ANALYTICAL SKILLS ARE ANY MATCH FOR JOHN KESLER'S *SIMIAN STRENGTH,* SO I PLAN TO STAY OUT OF HIS WAY.

IN *MY* EXPERIENCE...

...THE MORE WE DO WHAT OTHER PEOPLE *WANT* US TO, THE MORE WE GET INTO TROUBLE.

BE *YOURSELF,* AND THE KESLERS OF THE WORLD CAN'T TOUCH YOU.

DESPITE ALL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY.

WHAT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE?

STAND YOUR GROUND.

SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

"SO, *DID* YOU?"

"OF COURSE NOT.

"I FIGURED OUT KESLER'S SCHEDULE AND SOMEHOW MANAGED TO AVOID HIM.

dalitnetwork.org

"SO KESLER FOUND HIMSELF ANOTHER PUNCHING BAG.

"MAYBE I COULDN'T STAND UP FOR MYSELF, BUT FOR SOMEONE ELSE..."

GET AWAY FROM HIM, KESLER.

WHY? IS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND, KAPLAN?

IS THAT YOUR WAY OF ASKING IF I'M SINGLE?

CAUSE YOU'RE REALLY NOT MY TYPE.

dali

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?

I SAID, GET AWAY.

"THE SCARLET WITCH WAS *RIGHT.*

"I *DID* HAVE POWERS.

"BUT THE FIRST TIME I USED THEM, I LOST CONTROL.

dalitnetwork.org

"I ALMOST *KILLED* SOMEBODY.

"AND NOW SHE WASN'T *AROUND* TO MAKE IT BETTER.

"THE AVENGERS... THE MANSION...

"...THEY WERE *GONE.*"

EXCUSE ME...

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

"...I *WAS* ALL RIGHT."

dalinetwork.org

"IT WASN'T UNTIL I MET IRON LAD THAT I REALIZED...

SO, WHAT DO I TELL KAT FARRELL?

SHE'S GOING TO DO THE STORY *ANYWAY*, RIGHT?

WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE HER THE *REAL* STORY.

I HAVE TO WARN YOU: SHE'LL PROBABLY ASK IF THE RUMORS ABOUT YOU GUYS ARE *TRUE*.

SHOULD WE *TELL* HER?

THATS UP TO *YOU*.

DID YOU TALK TO THE PRESS WHEN *YOU* WERE A SUPER HERO, MS. JONES?

NOPE. BUT YOU GUYS ARE MORE TOGETHER AT SIXTEEN THAN I *EVER* WAS, SO...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHY NOT? BESIDES...

"...WHY SHOULD *NORTHSTAR* HAVE ALL THE FUN?"

I DON'T KNOW, MS. JONES...

...IF MY *DAD* EVER FOUND OUT WHAT I WAS DOING...

WHAT ABOUT YOUR *MOM?*

SHE DIED LAST YEAR.

SORRY, KATE.

ME, TOO.

WITHOUT HER, MY DAD SPENDS ALL HIS TIME EXPANDING HIS EMPIRE...

...AND MY SISTER SPENDS ALL HER TIME SPENDING HIS *MONEY.*

MEANWHILE *YOU'VE* TAKEN UP THE BOW AND ARROW.

YEAH, BUT THAT'S NOT *WHY.*

WELL...NOT *ENTIRELY.*

"THE TRUTH IS, I'VE *NEVER* BEEN COMFORTABLE WITH MY FAMILY'S *WEALTH.*"

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY STARVING FAMILIES IN NIGER WE COULD FEED FOR THE COST OF THIS *WEDDING?*

I'M *BEGGING* YOU: SHUT UP AND TRY YOUR *DRESS* ON OR I'M GOING TO FIND MYSELF ANOTHER *MAID OF HONOR.*

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND.

WHAT DID I JUST *SAY?*

WHY NOT GET MARRIED AT CITY HALL AND GIVE THE MONEY TO *CHARITY?*

BECAUSE WE ALREADY GIVE *PLENTY* OF MONEY TO CHARITY...

...AND I WANT A *WEDDING.*

IF *MOM* WERE HERE--

IF MOM HAD TAKEN *CARE* OF HERSELF--INSTEAD OF RUNNING ALL OVER THE WORLD TRYING TO *SAVE* IT--SHE'D STILL *BE* HERE.

WHAT IS *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IT MEANS LIFE IS *SHORT.*

DON'T WASTE *YOURS* DOING WHAT YOU THINK *MOM* WOULD DO.

AND IF IT TURNS OUT YOU ACTUALLY *WANT* TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN SOUP KITCHENS AND WOMEN'S SHELTERS, I'LL SUPPORT YOU. BECAUSE I'M YOUR *SISTER* AND THAT'S MY JOB.

AND *YOUR* JOB IS TO TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT I LOOK *RIDICULOUS* IN THIS DRESS.

YOU DON'T LOOK...*THAT* RIDICULOUS.

"MY SISTER WAS RIGHT.

"LIFE IS SHORT.

BLESS YOU.

"AND IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD YOUR GRADES ARE--OR HOW MANY HOURS YOU PUT IN AT THE SOUP KITCHEN...

"...YOU'RE NOT *SAFE.*

"BAD THINGS *HAPPEN.*

"THINGS YOU CAN'T *CONTROL.*

"THINGS THAT HAVE *NOTHING* TO DO WITH YOU...

"AND THEY WILL *DESTROY* YOU IF YOU LET THEM.

"OR YOU CAN TRY TO *LEARN* FROM THEM...

"...SO THAT *NEXT* TIME, YOU'LL BE PREPARED.

"SO THAT--EVEN IF YOU NEVER FEEL SAFE *AGAIN*--YOU CAN DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU NEVER HAPPENS TO ANYONE ELSE.

"AND IF YOU'RE VERY LUCKY...

"...YOU WON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE."

WHO ELSE KNOWS?

JUST MY THERAPIST.

AND NOW YOU.

SHOULD I NOT HAVE *TOLD* YOU?

NO, IT'S JUST...

...A *SIMILAR* THING HAPPENED TO *ME*.

IS THAT WHY *YOU* BECAME A SUPER HERO?

IT'S WHY I *QUIT*.

AND YOU THINK *I* SHOULD QUIT, TOO.

IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHAT* I THINK.

SO WHEN YOUR DAUGHTER FINDS OUT *SHE'S* GOT POWERS-- AND SHE WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE HER MOM AND DAD--WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL *HER*?

I'M GOING TO TELL HER, *NO WAY*.

BUT IF SHE'S ANYTHING LIKE *ME*, SHE'LL DO IT ANYWAY.

AND IF SHE'S ANYTHING LIKE *YOU*, I'LL CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY.

"LOOK, I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT..."

...I'M *NOT* A YOUNG AVENGER ANYMORE.

AND KAT FARRELL'S GOING TO WANT TO KNOW *WHY*, ELI.

WHY YOU LEFT THE TEAM.

WHY YOU HAD A FALLING OUT WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.

AND IF IT HAD *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH THE RUMOR THAT YOU'VE BEEN USING MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HER?

YOU COULD TELL HER THE *TRUTH*. SO THAT *OTHER* KIDS WHO WANT TO BE HEROES DON'T--

I DIDN'T TAKE STEROIDS BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE A *HERO*, MS. JONES...

"...I TOOK THEM BECAUSE I WAS *ASHAMED.*"

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...IF IT ISN'T THE BLACK *CAPTAIN AMERICA* AND *BUCKY.*

YOU BUY US SOME *GROCERIES,* CAP?

LEAVE HIM ALONE.

OR *WHAT?* HE'S GONNA THROW HIS MIGHTY *SHIELD?*

C'MON, GRANDPA.

DON'T RUN AWAY, CAP!

WE COULDN'T HURT YOU EVEN IF WE *WANTED* TO.

RIGHT?

KRAKK

GRANDPA!

SOME HERO, HUH?
THE OLD MAN'S A *RETARD.* HE CAN'T EVEN *TALK.*
HE WAS WOUNDED IN *COMBAT.*
IS *THAT* WHAT THEY TOLD YOU?
ON YOUR FEET, OLD MAN.
GET *AWAY* FROM HIM.
DROP THE BOTTLE, KID...
UHN--
...YOU DON'T WANNA *HURT* YOURSELF.
ELI...?
OH, *NOW* YOU WANT TO HELP ME?
GO *HOME,* GRANDPA.
I'LL HANDLE THIS.

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA...

NOT SO FAST, LITTLE MAN.

YOU *FRIENDS* OF THEIRS?

WE'RE FRIENDS OF *YOURS.*

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO MUCH DAMAGE WITH THAT BOTTLE...

...BUT WITH *THESE...*

WHAT ARE THEY?

SUPER-STRENGTH, SUPER-SPEED...

...AND SUPER-AFFORDABLE.

JUST BECAUSE THE *OLD MAN'S* POWERLESS DOESN'T MEAN *YOU* HAVE TO BE.

HOW MUCH?

YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHY YOUR GRANDFATHER CAME BACK FROM THE GROCERY ALL BY *HIMSELF* THIS AFTERNOON?

THE **BLACK** CAPTAIN AMERICA: TRUTH OR **FICTION?**

YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE SAY GRANDPA WAS THE ***BLACK*** CAPTAIN AMERICA?

PEOPLE ***SAY*** THAT BECAUSE IT'S ***TRUE.***

HOW DO ***YOU*** KNOW?

EXCUSE ME?

THERE'S NO ***PROOF.*** NO ***WITNESSES.*** AND THE ***GOVERNMENT*** SAYS--

WHERE IS THIS ***COMING*** FROM?

JUST TELL ME THE ***TRUTH.***

HAVE YOU EVER ACTUALLY ***SEEN*** GRANDPA DO ANYTHING EVEN REMOTELY... SUPERHUMAN?

WHY SHOULD THAT ***MATTER?***

THAT MEANS YOU ***HAVEN'T.***

YOUR GRANDFATHER SACRIFICED THE BEST YEARS OF HIS ***LIFE*** TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY WHEN THIS COUNTRY HAD ***NO*** INTEREST IN PROTECTING ***HIM.***

AND THAT MAKES HIM A ***HERO...***

...WHETHER HE WAS A ***SUPER-SOLDIER*** OR NOT.

THAT MAN HAS NOTHING TO PROVE TO ***ANYONE,*** ELI.

LEAST OF ALL, ***YOU.***

HOW'S YOUR HEAD, GRANDPA?

YOU WANT TO PLAY SOME BALL?

AWW, C'MON, MAN.

THAT'S OKAY. I'LL GET IT.

AGAIN.

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...LOSE SOMETHING, BUCKY?

CATCH!

FUMMP

NOW LET'S FIND OUT IF YOU GOT ANY OF THE OLD MAN'S *POWERS.*

OH, THAT'S *RIGHT.* HE DOESN'T *HAVE* ANY...

...POWERS.

"I REACHED FOR THE *PILLS* IN MY POCKET...

"...BUT THE FIGHT WAS *OVER* BEFORE I COULD *TAKE* ONE.

"THE BLACK CAPTAIN AMERICA IS NO MYTH.

"HE'S MY *GRANDFATHER.*

"AND I WANTED TO BE JUST *LIKE* HIM.

HEINBERG PASQUAL 2005

"I WANTED TO CARRY ON HIS *LEGACY...*"

...BUT NOW...

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, ELI.

ADMITTEDLY, SOME OF US MORE THAN OTHERS.

BUT THEY SAY THAT'S HOW YOU LEARN.

I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOU ON WHETHER OR NOT THAT'S TRUE.

WILL YOU REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOUR KID STARTS MAKING MISTAKES?

I'LL BE MAKING ENOUGH MISTAKES FOR BOTH OF US, BELIEVE ME.

THE WHOLE MOTHERHOOD THING...

...IT DOES NOT COME NATURALLY TO ME.

COULD'VE FOOLED ME.

SO, WHAT DO I TELL KAT FARRELL?

TELL HER I WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO HER...

"...BUT I HAVE A HISTORY PAPER TO FINISH."

A *HISTORY* PAPER?

YEP. ON THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR.

WHAT ABOUT THE *OTHER* KIDS? DO I GET MY--

DAI

--EXCLUSIVE?

IS NOW A BAD TIME?

I'M GUESSING YOU DIDN'T TALK THE KIDS *OUT* OF THE SUPER HERO BUSINESS.

I COULDN'T EVEN IF I ***WANTED*** TO, LUKE.

AND DON'T TELL CAP, BUT...

...I DIDN'T ***WANT*** TO.

SO, WHEN OUR BABY GIRL WANTS TO BE A YOUNG AVENGER, YOU'LL BE OKAY WITH THAT?

AT THIS POINT, ***I*** WANT TO BE A YOUNG AVENGER.

I KNOW THEY KILLED KANG THE CONQUEROR...

...BUT YOU **REALLY** THINK THEY CAN HANDLE KAT FARRELL?

AFTER WHAT THOSE KIDS HAVE BEEN THROUGH...?

...I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING THEY CAN'T HANDLE.

E
E
M
P
I
R